

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 03611 012023Z
ACTION ARA-14

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P 011753Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO USINFO PRPRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
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UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 3611

FOR IOP; ILA; IPS; IBS; STATE FOR ARA/CEN

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REF: USINFO TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR OF JULY 22

MEDIAREACT: CONTINUED REACTION TO LAST WEEK'S CONGRESSIONAL
HEARING

UNCLAS. AUGUST 1. SATURDAY'S LA PRENSA GRAFICA, CONSERVATIVE
MORNING DAILY, QUOTED ON PAGE 3 MEXICAN NEWSPAPER VERSIONS OF
REMARKS MADE BY CONGRESSIONAL PRESIDENT RUBEN ALFONSO RODRIGUEZ
IN III MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTS.
ACCORDING TO PRENSA, MEXICAN PAPERS QUOTED RODRIGUEZ AS ACCUSING
EX-AMBASSY IGNACIO E. LOZANO, JR., OF "HAVING SUPPORTED AND
ENCOURAGED THE SAME EXTREMIST GROUPS THAT WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR
ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND TERROR IN EL SALVADOR, CULMINATING IN THE
ASSASSINATION OF FOREIGN MINISTER MAURICIO BORGONOVO POHL."
EXCELSION ACCOUNT QUOTED RODRIGUEZ AS FOLLOWS: "IN EL SALVADOR,
THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DURING THE REGIME OF COL. ARTURO
ARMANDO MOLINA WAS IN GREAT PART SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT, WHICH THROUGH ITS EX-AMBASSADOR, IGNACIO LOZANO,
GAVE ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND STRENGTH TO EXTREME LEFTIST GROUPS,
LIKE THOSE WHICH ASSASSINATED FOREIGN MINISTER BORGONOVO AND
LIC. (ROBERTO) POMA (FORMER HEAD OF TOURISM INSTITUTE), ANOTHER
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 03611 012023Z

MEMBER OF THE CABINET."
IN SAME ARRIVAL STATEMENT, RODRIGUEZ WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID
THAT IN EL SALVADOR "IT HAS BEEN GROUPS OF THE LEFT WHICH HAVE
SOWN VIOLENCE AND DISCORD, BECAUSE OF THE DESIGN OF FOREIGN
POLITICIANS TO INTEFERE IN THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF OUR COUNTRY.
"...THE CASE OXMIGNACIO LOZANO IS PATENT. HE WAS OFFERED
FRIENDSHIP AND TRUST AND HE BETRAYED THEM AND EVEN SO HAS

PROCLAIMED BEFORE HIS COUNTRY'S CONGRESS THAT IN EL SALVADOR HUMAN RIGHTS ARE BEING VIOLATED, AS IF HE HAD NOT SPONSORED THAT VERY VIOLENCE."

TODAY'S PRENSA GRAFICA FEATURES DISAVOWALS OF RODRIGUEZ STATEMENT, QUOTING STATEMENT BY PRES. CARLOS HUMBERTO ROMERO GIVEN TO ASSOCIATED PRESS, AND REPRODUCING ON PAGE 3 A COMMENTARY WRITTEN BY DR. JOSE LUIS SALCEDO GALLEGOS, FORMER AIDE TO GEN. ALBERTO MEDRANO, CRITICIZING RODRIGUEZ.

AP QUOTED PRES. ROMERO AS SAYING THAT RODRIGUEZ STATEMENT "DOES NOT REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF EL SALVADOR. THESE STATEMENTS WERE MADE ON A PURELY PERSONAL BASIS. FROM NO POINT OF VIEW DO THEY REFLECT THE FEELINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR." SALCEDO GALLEGOS' COMMENTARY SAYS IN PART, "I WAS LEFT SPEECHLESS READING AND REREADING--I HAD TO GO OVER IT AGAIN TO BE COMPLETELY SURE THAT I HAD READ CORRECTLY--DECLARATIONS BY DR. RUBEN ALFONSO RODRIGUEZ...."

"...AS A SALVADORAN WITHOUT POLITICAL AFFILIATION BUT WITH SYMPATHIES TOWARD THE PCN, I HAVE TO REFUTE IT INASMUCH AS I CAN, WITHOUT ACRIMONY BUT WITH SINCERITY.

"...THE OPINIONS OF DR. ROSEN ALFONSON RODRIGUEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, ARE NOT EVEN THOSE OF THAT CHAMBER. THEY ARE HIS PERSONAL OPINIONS, VERY PERSONAL. LET THIS BE VERY CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD.

"WHEN THE PRESS SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDENCY EXPRESSES AN OPINION OFFICIALLY, THEN IT HAS POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AND THEREFORE UNDERSTAND THE OPINIONS WHICH REPUBLICAN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAN SA 03611 012023Z

OR DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMEN IN THE U.S. EXPRESS AGAINST EL SALVADOR. THEY ARE IN NO WISE THOSE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WHOSE EXECUTIVE POWER, AS IS THE CASE HERE, IS THE ONLY ONE AUTHORIZED IN THE CONSTITUTION TO CARRY ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AND EXPRESS PUBLICLY ITS VIEWS RELATED TO THEM. NOTHING ELSE, DESPITE BEING WORTHY OF RESPECT AND CONSIDERATION, HAS OFFICIAL SIGNIFICANCE. "I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A SUGGESTION: THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, EITHER BY APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION, ABSTAIN FROM MAKING STATEMENTS, OR AT LEAST CONSULT OR ADVISE BEFORE MAKING THEM; BECAUSE OTHERWISE, JUST AS IN THE UNITED STATES, THEY ARE ONLY FUELING THE FIRE, GUIDED BY PARTIAL INTERESTS, OR POSSIBLY BY COMPLETE IRRESPONSIBILITY. JOHNSON

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